

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
22 September 2005 (22.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/088725 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H01L 29/78, (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB2005/050723
 (22) International Filing Date: 28 February 2005 (28.02.2005)
 (25) Filing Language: English
 (26) Publication Language: English
 (30) Priority Data: 0405325.2 10 March 2004 (10.03.2004) GB
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PI, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

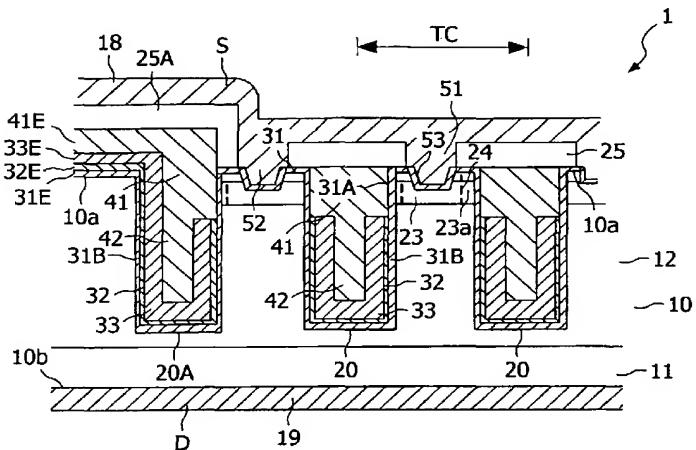
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

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(54) Title: TRENCH-GATE TRANSISTORS AND THEIR MANUFACTURE



(57) **Abstract:** A trench-gate transistor (1) has an integral first layer of silicon dioxide (31) which extends from the upper surface (10a) of the semiconductor body (10) over top corners of each cell array trench(20), the integral first layer also providing a thin gate dielectric insulating layer (31A) for a thick gate electrode (41) and the integral first layer also providing a first part (31B) of a stack of materials which constitute a thick trench sidewall insulating layer (31B,32,33) for a thin field plate (42), a layer of silicon nitride (32) providing a second part of the stack and a second layer of silicon dioxide (33) providing a third part of the stack. The integrity of the first silicon dioxide layer (31) over the trench (20) top corners helps to avoid gate (41) - source (24) short circuits. In a method of manufacture (Figures 2A to 2F) a hardmask (21) used to etch the trenches (20) is removed before providing the silicon dioxide layer (31), which layer (31) is then protected by successive selective etching of the oxide layer (33) and the nitride layer (32) in the upper parts of the trenches (20). After the gate electrodes (41) are provided, layers for the channel accommodating regions (23) and source regions (24) may be formed through the oxide layer (31) on the upper surface (10a).

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MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM,
PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY,
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA,
ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ,
NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM,
AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT,
BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR,
HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,
TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
9 March 2006

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.